

Appl. No. : 09/833,027
Filed : April 11, 2001

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful and thoughtful examination of the present application. By way of summary, Claims 1-43 were pending in this application. In the present amendment, the Applicant has canceled Claims 1-43 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new Claims 44-66. Accordingly, Claims 44-66 remain pending for consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and accompanying Form PTO-1449 citing seven references on July 31, 2002. The Applicant notes that the Form PTO-1449 was returned signed by the Examiner, but the Examiner did not initial next to the sixth reference listed (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,536 to Sasaki), as indicated on the attached copy of the July 31, 2002 Form PTO-1449. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Sasaki reference of the July 31, 2002 IDS be properly considered, and a copy of the submitted Form PTO-1449 including an indication of the consideration be returned in a next communication from the Patent Office.

New Claims

New Claims 44-66 have been added to more fully define the Applicant's invention and are believed to be fully distinguished over the prior art of record.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,584,564, issued to Olkin, et al. (the Olkin patent). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as the Olkin patent fails to identically teach every element of new Claims 44-66. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (stating that in order to anticipate a claim, a prior art reference must identically teach every element of the claim).

For example, new Claim 44 describes a secure electronic document capable of being transmitted from a sender to a recipient, the secure electronic document comprising a first security element, an encrypted message, and a second security element. The first security element is interpretable by a recipient's browser and

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capable of causing the recipient's browser to accept a password. The second security element is interpretable by the recipient's browser to generate within the recipient's browser a decryption key based upon the password. The decryption key is useable by the recipient's browser to decrypt the encrypted message for display within the recipient's browser.

In contrast, the Olkin patent describes a secure e-mail 14 that sends the email address of the receiver 16, the password 102b of the receiver 16, and a messageID 104a to a security server 24. Col. 15, ll. 52-59. Then, depending upon the result of an authentication sub-process (Col. 15, l. 60 – Col. 16, l. 25), "the security server 24 sends the messageKey 104e back to the software module 26 of the receiver 16 via SSL." Col. 16, ll. 26-28. Thus, the Olkin patent teaches sending out a request for a decryption key that is provided by an external security server 24.

Therefore, since the Olkin patent fail to teach, inter alia, a second security element interpretable by the recipient's browser to generate within the recipient's browser a decryption key based upon the password and useable by the recipient's browser to decrypt the encrypted message for display within the recipient's browser, Claim 44 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 45-57, which depend from Claim 44, are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 44, and because of the additional features recited therein.

New Claim 58 describes a method of sending a message to a recipient, the message including one or more self-contained security elements. The method comprises the steps of: preparing an encrypted message by encrypting a source message using an encryption key and an encryption algorithm; preparing a secure document; and forwarding the secure document to an electronic system capable of delivering the secure document to a recipient. The secure document comprises: a first security element interpretable by a recipient's browser and capable of causing the recipient's browser to accept a password; a second security element interpretable by the recipient's browser to generate within the recipient's browser a decryption key based upon the password and useable by the recipient's browser to decrypt the encrypted message for display within the recipient's browser; and the encrypted message.

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In contrast, the Olkin patent describes sending an encrypted secure e-mail 14 (Col. 6, l. 62 – Col. 7, l. 7). However, the secure email 14 is decrypted by a software module 26 that uses a messageKey 104e (Col. 16, ll. 29-31) that is received from a security server 24 ("the security server 24 sends the messageKey 104e back to the software module 26 of the receiver 16 via SSL."). Col. 16, ll. 26-28. Thus, the Olkin patent teaches sending out a request for a decryption key that is provided by an external security server 24.

Therefore, since the Olkin patent fail to teach, inter alia, preparing a secure document; where the secure document comprises, inter alia, a second security element interpretable by the recipient's browser to generate within the recipient's browser a decryption key based upon the password and useable by the recipient's browser to decrypt the encrypted message for display within the recipient's browser, Claim 58 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 59-66, which depend from Claim 58, are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 58, and because of the additional features recited therein.

Request For Telephone Interview

In view of the forgoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Applicant's undersigned attorney of record hereby formally requests a telephone interview with the Examiner. The Applicant's attorney can be reached at (949) 721-2946 or at the number listed below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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Respectfully submitted,

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